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Industrial Labour Welfare Association Ltd.,

GOPAL BAGH :: COIMBATORE.

Welcome Address by

Mr. G. D. NAIDU,

President, Industrial Labour Welfare Association Ltd., Coimbatore,

&

Replies by

Mr. A. D. SHROFF,

Founder, Forum of Free Enterprises,

Mr. T. T. R. PILLAI,

B. A., B. L.,

Mr. S. B. ADITHAN,

Bar-at-Law

and

Mr. C. M. SREENIVASAN,

Convenor, Forum of Free Enterprises, Madras Centre.

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INDUSTRIAL LABOUR WELFARE ASSOCIATION LTD.,

GOPAL BAGH :: COIMBATORE.

A party was arranged to meet Mr. A. D. Shroff, one of the leading businessmen of Bombay and Founder of the Forum of Free Enterprises, at "Gopal Bagh", Coimbatore on 20—1—1957 at 5 p. m. The party was well attended by a large gathering of businessmen, officers and the general public.

Mr. G. D. Naidu, welcoming the chief guest, delivered a speech introducing the chief guest to the audience and giving a brief history of the activities of the Forum of Free Enterprises.

Mr. A. D. Shroff, in reply, delivered an authentic speech about the working of the private sector and public sector. He was very glad to answer questions put to him.

Mr. T. T. R. Pillai, B. A., B. L., Advocate of Coimbatore, Mr. S. B. Adithan, Bar-at-Law, Founder of "Dina-Thanthi, Madras and Mr. C. M. Srinivasan, Secretary, National Welfare Union and Convenor of the Forum of Free Enterprises, Madras Centre also spoke at the function.

The function ended at about 7 p. m.

Speech by

Mr. G. D. NAIDU

Friends:

I am very glad to have the opportunity to introduce to you our chief guest Mr. A. D. Shroff and other guest friends here. Mr. A. D. Shroff is one of the very important members who have organized The Forum of Free Enterprises, which is an organization, very useful and necessary for the well being of the country, about which I will explain later on. Perhaps many of our guests here have not had the opportunity of meeting Mr. Shroff in person, though 100 per cent of us know his name and know about his activities in connection with various industries and business concerns. Industries and business concerns mean, not ordinary industry and business that is carried on in a haphazard way, without a well considered plan just like the concerns planned by our present planners, but his industries and business are all well planned before they are started, considered in various aspects before they are planned and started within the means, so that they can grow up with freedom and independency, and that they may benefit not only him, but also all the people of this

country. Therefore his name is too well known in the business world.

Perhaps many of you know Mr. C. M. Srinivasan, who has experience in the insurance field. Recently an association was started at Madras by name "National Welfare Union", for which he is the general secretary. Also he is the convenor at Madras for this organization, I mean, The Forum of Free Enterprises.

The Forum of Free Enterprises came into being on the 18th of July last year at Bombay, declaring in its manifesto that democracy is an essential element in the Indian way of life and free enterprise is an integral part of democracy. Apart from Mr. Shroff, there are other prominent leading experts, such as Mr. Murarji Vaidya, Col. Sawhny, Mr. S. N. Hajee, Mr. M. S. Masani, Mr. N. Dandekar etc., who have given their valuable service for the well growing of this organization. Some important points are mentioned in the manifesto. The forum is a non-political organization. It is purely educative in character. It will not have anything to do with politics or political parties. It will not encroach on the function of any chamber or other organizations. It concerns free enterprise with merchants, doctors, lawyers, executives and employees.

There are allegations that this forum is a foreign inspired one. The organizers say that the function of the forum is mainly educative on different aspects of free enterprises and by various ways to stimulate public thinking and more or less to educate the public.

Here I have to disagree in some respects. I do not know why such experts and eminent leaders like our distinguished chief guest with other strong leaders wish to say that this organization is an educative one and it will not have anything to do with politics and will confine itself only to educating public opinion on free enterprises. They can as well say authoritatively that they are teaching the young government and that they are the teachers and organizers to guide this government, which is riding on an unbridled horse.

They have mentioned only about the merchants and they have not mentioned in their manifesto about their concern with the agriculturists. In my opinion this forum of free enterprises concerns more with agriculturists than with anybody else, because 80 per cent of the population is depending only on agriculture in our country. Each and every industry and business has to depend upon the foundation

of agriculture. This is very well explained by Prof. C. N. Vakil at Bombay Rotary meeting on 30-10-56. He has very vividly explained how all other industrial activities are entirely depending on agriculture, which is the only one industry organized, co-operating with small industries, big industries and cottage industries. The unemployment question can be solved, soaring places can be brought down and we can face any adversities in the world, only by developing the agricultural industry.

I have also mentioned in a way in a conference, which I inaugurated at Kumbakonam recently, in the matter of a struggle between the government, land-owners and cultivators or workers. Of course it will take a long time for leaders like our Chief Guest to teach the government all these things. Moreso it will take a longer time to be understood by the government. Prof. Vakil mentioned in his speech, how much one husband is earning outside and how much his wife, who is sitting in the house is spending and finally what kind of troubles they have to encounter when the lazy tender wife spends more money than the earning of her husband, by his toil for more than 12 hours outside. Unfortunately the husband did not earn according to the planned expense of his wife. And it is not

possible for him to earn according to her desire. He gets the return for his honest work. Of course, there are wives who plan their expenses within their means of income. Our government or the planning department have planned the expenses first as mentioned above by a spend thrift wife. Then they are trying to get money by all means - that means by squeezing, by crushing, by steeling or even by murdering the enthusiasm of the industries and the freedom of democracy.

When Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari entered as a minister in the commerce and industries department, which was then in a rotten condition, made that department run efficiently in an organized way. Everyone thought that he would do much more in the development of the industries of our country than anybody else, in status equal to or more than any other country. When he left this department and entered the finance department, everyone thought that the finance department also would help the industries department and would pave the way for co-operation, co-ordination and confidence amongst all sections. Unfortunately his newly married wife spoilt him by bringing in new taxes in such a short time. For the finance bills that have been rushed into the Sabha by the finance

minister, our chief guest has replied very suitably about compulsory deposits, depreciation, allowances, development rebates, investments and other matters concerning free enterprises. Still I hope that the finance minister will remove all the burden of taxes, which is driving even honest people to become black-marketeers, suppressors and even enthusiastic moneyed people to hide away their wealth instead of investing them in business enterprises. Perhaps himself and the government may come to know only after the experience in the election, that they can get more income by allowing free enterprises without such unnecessary controls suppressing the freedom of business. Atleast after suffering for a little time, they will do this as a trial and they can achieve in reality what they are dreaming of in the Second Five Year Plan. As mentioned by the leaders of the Forum of Free Enterprises, nothing will be lost by planning the expenses without the means of income and extending a few years more to achieve the aims with co-operation, by providing work for all.

I have to appreciate the Congress government for their unending efforts taken to bring the first five year plan to a sort of success, for which we have to thank them. They have brought into existence

several river valley projects, electrical and mining projects, steel projects etc. which are absolutely necessary for our country's development, though at a very costly price. Of course we cannot dream, if any other party government had come to power that we could have achieved these. We are told by several people who have voted for congress, that the ministers are wandering on the roads spending enormous public funds for opening tanks and bunds where there is no water. They are favouring a few of their party people, though the government say that they have nationalized many profitable industries such as electricity, transports, life insurances, banks, lands, cement controls, direct or indirect control of semi-nationalized cement industries. Our government own some industrial plants which are producing enough and sufficient profits. But at the same time they are forgetting how many times more profit will be got if those industries are made to run more efficiently by private sectors either alone or by co-operative enterprises, without any interference from the government side. In spite of all these objections and such heavy expenses, we should not forget to appreciate the congress government for opening river-valley projects, which are giving enough food for the starving people of our country.

Though I did not know these friends before, after I joined as a member in this Forum of Free Enterprises, I went through all the speeches. They are not the musicians' songs or dance kala, which are repeated day and night in the streets or palaces and copied and copied throughout the year, from generation to generation. Their speeches are not ordinary ones. They contain a fountain of knowledge that came out from their ripe experience of activities in our country and all the world over and they are not like election speeches. Perhaps the activities of this forum have not spread in these parts. Therefore I invited the chief guest for this party, so that all our friends can see him, hear him and ask him to clear any doubts and to take advice from him. I have to thank Mr. Shroff for having consented to my invitation in such a short notice to come here and to be my honoured guest with my other friends. I have to thank the other guests also for honouring the chief guest by their presence here.

THANK YOU ALL.

Speech by

Mr. A. D. SHROFF

of Bombay.

Mr. Naidu, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me at the outset thank you sir, for inviting me to this function, thus giving me an opportunity to meet so many friends in Coimbatore. Last five days, I am almost feeling like an English boy who comes home for his Christmas vacation and at the end of the vacation feels himself over spoilt with X'mas pudding. Friends have been so kind in Madras and a number of other places I had been to, that I am almost becoming a spoilt child. The Forum of Free Enterprises to which I refer to is still an infantile organization. It came into existence only on the 18th of July last as some of us in Bombay felt that things in this country were developing to a stage where unless some body took courage in both the hands and spoke out his mind, ultimately this country was going to economic ruin. The Forum of Free Enterprises, as you rightly said Sir, is an educative organization. But I am not prepared to conceit that it would be entirely free from engaging in political work too. Whether we like it or not, the extension of governmental interference in

increasing aspects of our life, whether economic, social or political, has been so rapid that whether they like it or not, we are splodged into political life. The adoption by congress and subsequently by the parliament through the supreme role of majority that the congress possess to-day of our socialistic pattern of society and now they being marked as authority in saying "Establishment of Socialistic Society in India" has raised very acute problems for all intelligent and independant thinking people.

Whilst we are entirely one with the government and I doubt any patriotic Indian will differ on that, we all should co-operate in bringing about a large scale and rapid economic development of the country without which political independence will not be worth much. The fundamental issue on which we differ from the government is the matter by which this desirable objective can be obtained. We are convinced that as it has happened in all industrially advanced countries of the west, there is the crude and well tried matter of economic progress by providing the largest possible scope for individual initiative and enterprise. Countries like the United States, England, Switzerland and many others have been at the top of economic world

to-day, because, throughout their long history, they gave their citizens the widest possible scope for using their initiative and enterprise. Even in the very limited experience of India during the last 60 years, when unfortunately we were under a foreign regime and although we suffered from many dissabilities and limitations, it is free enterprise which ultimately succeeded in putting India on the industrial map of the world. In those days we had a government which later on became very sympathetic to any industrial development; we had nothing but antipathy if not at times hostility from the ruling authorities. Well, if I get the pioneering efforts of a number of citizens of India, succeeded in establishing a number of industries, take for instance one illustration – it was only 30 years ago – 35 years ago perhaps that we were importing from Lancashire as much as 60 crores worth of piece goods every year. It is through the enterprise of the citizens of this country that we have a very large cotton textile industry which is over 400 units spread over the country, where we are not only self sufficient regarding the requirements of our own people for clothing but we have become the second largest exporters of piece goods in no less than 45 or 46 countries of the world. It didn't require a socialistic

pattern of society to bring that about. Therefore we feel soundly convinced that this hazardous experiment of establishing a socialistic society and the daily increasing controlled economy which has been imposed by the government and the citizens of this country will not but ultimately lead to the succession of private industrial enterprise and at the end of them I have seen less progress than we have seen in the last 60 years and I entirely feel that we should give credit where it is due. But I differ from you on one thing. The first five year plan in my judgement was no plan at all. The first five year plan was simply a haphazard collection of the schemes which were already under our consideration and examination before we gained independence and even if you take the first five year plan, the record of free enterprise is some thing which has to be acknowledged even by the planning commission. At the end of the first five year plan in assessing the achievements in the way of industrial progress, the planning commission had to record a fact that it couldn't dispute, that where free enterprise was expected to make an investment of some thing like 232 crores, free enterprise had actually exceeded that amount, where as in the public sector, where the public sector was expected to make a fractional investment of about

92 crores, it succeeded in achieving th target only after defaults. Despite this achievement and magnificent record of free enterprises, it is a bit amazing that the planners of this country should have advised the government to embark on this hazardous experiment of a gradual expansion of the public sector getting more and more concerned over the means of production in this country through governmental agencies and providing very little scope for the private sector to flourish. Apart from the fact that this concerns economy, deprives a man of initiative and enterprise of making the largest possible contribution to the development of the country, it is a very significant, potential danger and that danger is this that under our socialistic pattern of society where government daily acquires more and more control over the economic life of the country, you think you cannot do it in a democratic way. If more and more control the government comes to exercise over the different phases of the economic life in this country, it simply means that more and more people every day will have to look up to the government for their daily existence. If precious, at the hands of the government extensive speculars and extensive patronage, even human experience, has also resulted in the development of vast spheres of views apart.

Concerning the distribution of cement throughout the country, it really means distribution of patronage over vast spheres in this country and the parties that are interested in the distribution of cement might well be the canvassers of political votes for the next election. The controlled economy therefore has this danger. It demoralizes the people in different spheres of life. I am sorry to say it has demoralized the business community to a live extent. That development of mere complex we see in the business community in the different places I had been visiting these six months, is a clear resultant the speculars of the government come to occupy. There is a fear now among the merchants – as a fear among the industrialists – that unless they show us a line, which has been set for them by the governmental authorities, they might drift him much and I tell you in the course of last six months I have seen that where there are hundreds of thousands of people, who think exactly the same way as I think and very like you think, they are afraid of expressing their views. The Forum of Free Enterprises therefore is a new platform and new opportunity for those hundreds of thousands of independent minded people, only if they develop that guts to speak out their minds. I have been told and you sir,

also suggested indirectly that unless we take part in the political field, we would not be able to produce any great results. That is true. But some sort of educative work has to be done. Public opinion has been, has yet been made to realise what free enterprise stands for. What are the achievements of free enterprise in the development of Indian economy so far? and what potential it offers for bringing about further development of the country? Although we are not taking direct part in the forthcoming elections, in our own humble way we can do one thing. During the last six months we have been trying to build up a climate and atmosphere in different parts of the country where independent candidates will have better chance of being heard by the electorate than otherwise. You sir, refered to certain criticisms of the forum. Well, I have taken several opportunities of answering them; but I think that the most unfair criticism which I have heard from Delhi is that the Forum of Free Enterprises is a foreign inspired institution. I am really amused at the suggestion. I should have thought that with 9 years of political independence and freedom that we are enjoying, we would not be still suffering from that inferiority complex that our own people in Delhi should feel that Indians haven't got sufficient

intelligence to understand their own interests that if we want to make any new programme it is unfortunately typical of government that we should run to foreigners and try and get inspirations from them. I force that the Forum of Free Enterprises is not only entirely Indian inspiration but it is as seditious as the Indian National Congress. So they spoke, one of the ministers of the central government speaking at the Chamber of Commerce in Ahmedabad took short of me that Indian business men should not publish if they have any views. If they have any thing to say, they should see the ministers privately and express their views to them. It is laughable, because about two weeks ago I read that addressing a meeting of some social progress, the prime minister strongly pleaded for the removal of purdah for women. Well, if women have to loose purdah, I don't see any justification for ministers adopting purdah (laughter).

As a matter of fact I want to tell the ministers and at the same time put into some of the business men also that there is a growing feeling in the business community for keeping away that section of the business community that is not very big to carry out business in a small and big scale but there is a lot of resentment among the

business community in general that a few men at the top of the business world should go and see the ministers, reach some sort of hush hush arrangement for their own satisfaction. If they claim to be a democracy, the prime minister never misses an opportunity of assuring us that India is a democracy and whatever is done will be done in a democratic way, I fail to understand why a minister should be so shy of discussing questions of public importance or from public platforms. Why should they long that the business men should go and see them privately and discuss these matters. It is not a matter of half-a-dozen businessmen being insulted, these are each in itself a vital affair in the economy of the country and as you rightly said, agriculture has formed the bulk of free enterprise in this country and if we have not taken agriculture as our hold at this stage, it is because we realise in a practical sort of way the difficulty and that vast sector of free economy in India.

There is also another criticism that has been made. The same minister said in Ahmedabad that he could not understand the attitude of business men, that go on only criticizing, whether they agree with the government that there should be increased production in the country. I

entirely repudiate that charge – our approach is not negative at all. Our approach is most positive. We are saying it day in and day out these last six months that the best approach, the most effective approach to the solution of our economic problem is to the proved and well tried industrial western nations of the world. We are convinced that there is no other approach which will make us reach the desired objective at an early period. So our approach is not negative. Our approach is that which is positive.

We have also been told, "Why have you been criticizing the government for these taxation methods when you have been increasing production?" Unfortunately the minister had been only recently taken out of a company or a firm of industry, an extremely well intentioned man as I had known him in Bombay for the last twelve years, is rather innocent of the importance of some of these things and so when he gets more settled down in the centre, he will appreciate the finer implications of some of these problems to which we have been continuously drawing the attention of the government. He does not realise that if there is production at a certain pace going on in the country, that production will go on. But with humility he said of all these

new cordoned work of ease that it is drawing up the sources of the state and further new flow of capital is hindered and any further advancement and progress is beyond the curt and a clear proof of that is seen in this. If any of you, ladies and gentlemen, have watched the figures which are published every six months by the government of India of what are called new capital issues and if you compare the new capital issues of the last twelve months with previous 12 months and months before, you will see the effect this new succession has produced on new capital issues. Investors having the money to invest in the capital issues and even where investors have money, have no confidence in it. The finance minister I think, will soon realise, if he had not already realised, that he had been the inventor of a first class crisis of confidence in this country during the last two months. His most unwise utterances in Madras in December have scared investors of it. You saw the effect of his utterances on the stock exchanges in India, where people got absolutely paniced, not only industrial staff but people got anxious to sell out their government bonds and I still believe and with the fullest sense of responsibility I said that unless this new law about compulsory deposit is revised or sufficiently and drastically

modified by the end of June, this country will face with a monitary crisis which it had not seen before. I entirely agree with you that the minister of commerce and industry Mr. Krishnamachari proved an outstanding success. I think there is no dispute about it. I acknowledged it publicly from Bombay platforms – the drive, energy, the resortfulness which he has got to have in the discharge of his duties as a minister of industry and commerce have considerably contributed to the industrial expansion of this country. For that very great credit is due to him. But I also share your view that for the last four months that he has taken over the finance ministry, his anxiety and enthusiasm which can convert the man who has, than the believer – in his anxiety to see that the second five year plan is put forth in a speculated period is resorting to matters and measures which will defeat the very objective he has in view. We are still, perhaps in a hopeless minority but still I don't despair. We have a very good and strong case to place before the public. Public opinion cannot be mobilized over night. It may expand. But the response of the Forum of Free Enterprises as seen in the last six months is most hardening and I am sure that all those who are engaged in free enterprise and it is not only business men and industrialists but doctors, journa-

lists, teachers, auditors, accountants - all those who are engaged in free enterprise join hands together and continue to put pressure on the government to the cultivation of the public opinion about the facility of contention they have put forth that the free enterprise is the only correct approach for bringing about vast industrial development, we cannot say.

Thank you very much. (cheers)

Question not recorded.

Reply by Mr. SHROFF

We have to congratulate the very great witness particularly the business community and I think no body can further his cause better than by acknowledging his own weakness. Business men, I am sorry to say, have been so extremely selfish and limited in their vision outside their own business, that they have allowed, their case to go by their fault, with the result that naturally a party with such tremendous followers has taken it for granted that every section of the community including the business community accepts what has been dictated to them. But even the worm turns and the worm has started turning now.

Speech by

Mr. T. T. R. PILLAI, B. A., B. L.,

Advocate, Coimbatore.

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Naidu and Mr. Shroff:

You know, many of us felt there is no idea in putting questions. I don't believe in putting questions and getting flat answers. I would like to make a few observations by their suggestions. I doubted - may I have your permission to express our heartfelt thanks for the brilliant exposition which you have heard from Mr. Shroff on the scope of private enterprise. In this context I may by way of observation say, reminding myself of the proverb, the one we meet in English literature i. e. "Carrying coal to New Castle". Mr. Shroff, the chief guest of this evening only believes in free enterprise. But I could wish that your appeal has got a larger audience, make one review happily. I may doubt some difficulties - will it be merely possible by talking of forum like this, the detestment of which I have seen in the Indian Finance, Commerce and the Capital journal and some times in the news papers? You will be amazed to hear that even those who speak of the forthcoming elections are not present here. I mean any one of those who are adopted by the congress, the socialists, communists, none of them are

here to listen to your speech, to hear what you have got to say about private enterprise of this forum. In this context how can we blame our distinguished finance minister Mr. T. T. K. or others if they do not care very much or encourage the private enterprise? They want votes and they want them very badly if they want to succeed in the forthcoming election.

How many of you are the voters, of those who have wealth, who believe in investment, who believe in the prosperity of the private enterprise or an infinitesimal minority in this huge country? Well a huge majority are those who do not bother to know what private enterprise is, what the private sector is, what public sector is, what the high sounding expressions like the deputation, democracy mean. They were prepared to hear the orators in the Coronation park, now known as Chidambaram Pillai Park. Large numbers go, we have got others by the side, labourers with red flags and other kinds of flags, it is they who form good crowd – that is why even those who have been adopted by congress, inspite of Mr. G. D. Naidu's invitation have not cared to come to this function and they are not present, because they know our votes can be taken for granted. Surely none of us are going to

vote for the communist or even for the socialist whose programmes are pro-frightening. So, willingly or unwillingly, rightly or wrongly, whether we want or not our destiny is undoubtedly a link to the success of the congress party. Only with this government – the only service which the private forum can do – the private sector of the forum can do it – by giving some reason and firmly hoping with prayful arms that God the almighty might instill some wisdom into the brains of friends like T. T. K. and others so that they may have their own thoughts, far from the reverse and give the private enterprise a part to play. So, unless it is a point I often mentioned, if you all, my friends here know my views, which as I am a far humbler man than yourselves, ... the learned lecturer, and distinguished speaker referred to a point only, that we are all afraid, it is a fact – in fact an industrialist of our own place criticised me in violent terms because I indulged in a scating criticism of the new culmination. Even the news papers, I regret very much to state, are having some fear. Many of my letters have not been published. Of course I am sorry I didn't send my article to you, the Dinathanthi or so. The Madras Mail wouldn't publish, the Hindu wouldn't publish and the Indian Express came with a trunkated form of the

letter. Even news papers, our reporters even if they write, they know those letters are not published in full. There is that fear complex. What I am saying is, unless you are prepared to take courage in both your hands and make it a first rate political issue, unless you are prepared to form a party of your own in the name of the private enterprise or some name, I am afraid this may be a labour of love lost. That is a suggestion sir, Mr. President, I wish to make. My point is, I am told – in fact the other day I read in the news papers that The Tata's Iron and Steels themselves have gone to the extent of introducing an amendment to the memorandum of enthusiasm by which they seek permission to invest large amounts as 50 lakhs to the political funds of the congress party and I am sure memorandums with which views are collected are taking permission to give away company's funds for a political party. I have seen several notices where the companies have amended their own articles of association by which they get permission to invest in congress organization or any other political party. Why I am refering to that is, when you do it, what prevents you from asking your own congress friends and leaders to give an ear to hear your point? What prevents you from starting a party of your own so that you may succeed in

sending them to the parliament so that they may effectively make their point there. So, my suggestion is, my friends will excuse me and the president also will excuse me if I am somewhat deliberate – the suggestion which I am making with great respect is that this forum, if it is present, has to make, to be felt, might be prepared to form a party of its own with a fragrance and see that the public realize it. How can you expect the agriculturists, the labourers and others who form the majority of the electorate, to appreciate what you have done? They may appreciate what you have done in the past, they may hope, that you have to be elected in future. I therefore want to mention, emphazise with great respect to our distinguished guest who has come all the way from Bombay, of whom I have heard a lot – when he goes back to Bombay, not merely to be contented with forming branches here and there, if only the speeches of the manner of his – those who already believe – who are already congress need not understand the private enterprise, no use of only convincing them. You must have a larger audience. You must be able to catch the electorate. If only the government of the day came to know that you are active, that you are also agitating this question, that you are going to the country and explain to

every voter what you stand for, expose the danger, unless you are prepared to go to that extent, I am afraid sir, you may commit me of being a prejudiced, your forum may not make headway. Those who read the Capital, Indian Finance, Commerce Manual – we believe in the private enterprises. But I want to make – I won't miss an opportunity to state that many of our industrialists should at least after retirement join politics, seek the franchise, go throughout the country make as many campaigns as our distinguished prime minister is doing, go round, send the men, engage men to go to the commonest of men of India – they must all go and say what private enterprise has done in the past, and what private enterprise is capable of doing in the future. Unless you are a party, even if it be a minority, unless it is that I am afraid sir, all that you have said will be in vain.

I thank you Mr. President.

Mr. SHROFF :

I am really greatful to the previous speaker for speaking out his mind. I don't think there is any difference between us. I want to point out to you that the forum started only six months ago. Please don't forget that The Indian National Congress was started in 1885 and you can't build up in this country organizations over night, particularly with the difficulties that we have in propagating our views in a country where the per cent of literacy is so small, in a country where the news paper reading public is so small, in a country where you have not got the facility of radio broadcast available to every body excepting the ruling authorities, it is not easy to reach a mark within a period of six months. I don't claim any thing big for the Forum of Free Enterprises. But I do want to assure my friends and show my friends the general public of the country, that it carries with it seeds, which might germinate and night flower into something really big. Well, of course all those who believe in free enterprise will develop the guts to speak out their minds. It is true that in an army like this - this army needs no conversion - I entirely agree with him. But even where you need no conversion. you want to be strengthened and that is

what the Forum of Free Enterprises aims to do. It will take us a few years to develop our forum into a political party. But even in the ranks of the congress as you might have noticed during the past six months, that there are a number of people who wanted information, they wanted upto date, authentic information on free enterprise and there are a number of righteous speakers in the congress itself and I am sure that in course of time this righteous element in congress with free thinkers like ourselves might find a common factor. I do not see any thing in the way of unfriendly criticism from our friend. I welcome it. I only wish and pray that larger number of people will develop that independence of mind that you yourself have shown at this meeting and ever increasing number of such people will gather strength and ultimately place before the country our programme which is an alternative to what is being offered by the congress to-day.

Speech by

Mr. S. B. ADITHAN, Bar-at-Law,

Founder: "Dina Thanthi", Tamil Daily, Madras.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am not here to inject any speech on you just after you have heard particularly Mr. Shroff and other friend also. I may only announce that Mr. J. S. Kannappar, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, Coimbatore has undertaken to distribute the leaflets of the literature of the forum in Coimbatore and I am also sending him a lot of literature which will be available to you for mere asking. About an year ago, it may be interesting to know that I knew nothing about so much of what I know now. After I joined the forum I began to read the literature. Though I am acquainted with the current topics, though I read news papers, I did not have so much of clear idea regarding the achievements of the private sector and the public sector and how they are working in such great detail as you can find from the literature. I therefore request you to call for the literature from Mr. Kannappar - he is having a lot of them a kindly go through it and see what - wonderful effect it has on you, you will

only feel that you are fully equipped with information as to, definitely say, form an opinion about what you should do and how you should act. As a matter of fact, even though our friend is saying that we must get into politics, we want to educate the country first and allow them to make their own party; we want to supply them only with information, facts and truth, so that they may think in the proper prospective and develop their own attitude with regard to political matters. Thank you.

Speech by

Mr. C. M. SREENIVASAN,

Secretary, National Welfare Union, Madras and Convenor, Forum of Free Enterprises, Madras Centre.

Mr. Shroff, Mr. G. D. Naidu, Ladies and friends,

We have had a very enjoyable, very pleasant function to-day and we had the opportunity to hear the financial and industrial genius of Bombay - why the financial and industrial genius of India and it is very fitting that the genius of the South, Mr. G. D. Naidu played the host. Ladies and Gentlemen, Mr. Shroff has a big industrial and financial concern but he is to-day among us as the founder of the free enterprise forum. The object of the forum is to educate - well, if that is the object, from to-day's function I should say, it has succeeded very well. I am sure, many of us here - lives of Coimbatore are here to-day, I see businessmen, I see also some officers here - so the life of Coimbatore is here and we had new light thrown on our old subject of free enterprise. Well as far as I am concerned, if the object of the free enterprise forum is to educate, it has succeeded very well. I have been educated in the last one hour more than I had been for many years. At the discussion, it is

the same as politics and I was all the time looking at the board there. Can you read it? No politics! So to wipe off that warning we have had a discussion all round politics. Ladies and gentlemen, if the object of the forum is to convince the people of the advantages of free enterprise as against government enterprise, we don't want many theories for that. In Madras we can see it for ourselves. Some of you would have been to Madras, probably all of you would have seen the Government Transport. Have you seen those buses run by the government? They run shaking, dilapidated, bone shaking kind of things. That is the Government Transport. You can compare it with the transport here run by men like Mr. G. D. Naidu. We have eyes, we may or may not figure you, but we have eyes to see. Any government run concern is less efficient than the private concern and that is the object of the free enterprise forum – Mr. Shroff's forum. The chief of his concerns are producing cement, news print and iron. Bigger than his iron, I respect him because his concerns produce jobs; produce employment. It is no news to you that a peon in his industrial concern is paid more than an officer in the government. Well, speaking a lot about Mr. Krishnamachari, Mr. Krishnamachari's officers are paid less than the peons and meanial servants in Mr. Shroff's

concerns. Then who should dictate to whom? – depends on the fitting of it – Mr. Shroff and people like him should dictate and show the way to people like Krishnamachari for running the government. But it is all the other way round – people in government dictating to people in industries like Mr. Shroff and he said the one return – and he has said, I am sure, the free enterprise forum will go a long way – there is a big future a head of it, there is no doubt about it. Pessimists may say that it might go somewhere but I am sure that it will go from success to success. Otherwise it will not be like Mr. Shroff. Can you find out any concern which did not succeed under Mr. Shroff? Well, his industrial concerns like the iron, cement, paper and other things – other industries, if they can succeed, why not this free enterprise forum which is advocated by the same person? I am sure there is a big future before this forum of free enterprise and I wish Mr. Shroff best – all the best wishes of the people assembled here to-day go to him and we are perfectly sure that there is a big prospect not only education but social, political and what not, lies before the Forum of Free Enterprise and I am sure we will live to see the day when the free enterprise forum has force in this country moulding public opinion, moulding social life.

So I wish you Sir, every success in the forum you have founded and I thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for the very pleasant things which the host has given us and I thank you again for having taken pains to speak to us.

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